GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3204
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2001
INTRODUCTION OF BT COTTON BY MAHARASHTRA HYBRID SEED COMPANY
ANNA SAHEB M.K. PATIL

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Weather the Government have withheld commercial introduction of Maharashtra Hybrid seed Company`stransgenic BT cotton Hybrid verities in the country;

(b) if so, the reason therefore;

(c) Weather the Government have asked ICAR to supervise Mahyco`s BT cotton hybrid varieties trials afterreservati0ons made by environmentalists against its introduction; and

(d) if so, the details thereof; and the follow up action taken thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T R BAALU):

(a) to (d) The genetic engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) set up under rule 4 of the rule for manufacture,use, import, export and storage of Hazardous Microorganisms/ Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells 1989,considered the proposal for the release of transgenic BT Cotton submitted by Maharashtra Hybrid Seed Company(MAHYCO) in its meeting held on 19.06.2001. The GEAC observed that the data generated on large scale field trials on BT Cotton Undertaken by MAHYCO could not reflect the true values because of late sowing. It was decided that the trials be repeated on a large scale under the direct supervision of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)under there Advanced Varietals Trials of All India Coordinated Cotton Improvement Project. In addition, GEAC has accorded approval to MAHYCO for conducting field trials on farmer`s fields in an area of about 100 hectares.